

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1921.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF MARKET DRAYTON.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report upon the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1921. The Minister of Health has ordered a revision of the particulars to be included in the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health by the omission of details as to conditions which do not vary from year to year and the curtailment of information asked for in certain years. Accordingly, this Annual Report is shorter than usual.

The weekly removal of house refuse, and the periodical tar-spraying of the streets have contributed to the improved health conditions of the town. When a scheme has been settled for the sewerage and sewage disposal, and the work completed, still further improvement may be looked for. The establishment of a public abattoir, and the inspection and

more humane slaughter of animals for food, and also the need for a public bathing place, are subjects which should deserve the attention of your Council.

I am

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

4th September, 1922.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 1,213.

Population (1921) 4,692.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 1,217.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 1,206.

Rateable Value £28,527.

Sum represented by a penny rate £108.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	104	57	47
Illegitimate ...	14	4	10

Birth Rate (R.G.) 25.1

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths—	60	34	26

Death Rate (R.G.) 12.7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth, from sepsis or other causes 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—Legitimate 76.9, illegitimate 142. Total 84.7.

Deaths from measles (all ages) ... 0

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 0

Marriages : Total 69. Marriage Rate 13.9.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Cases admitted		
	Total cases notified	to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	2	2	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	4	0	1
Other diseases generally notifiable :—			
Erysipelas ...	1	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica ...	1	0	1
Tuberculosis :			
(a) Pulmonary—			
Male ...	5	0	3
Female ...	1	0	0
(b) Non-pulmonary			
Male ...	1	0	0
Female ...	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0

SMALLPOX.—VACCINATION IN 1921

Of the 118 children born and registered, eighty were successfully vaccinated, seven died unvaccinated, two were removed from the district, the vaccination of two was postponed by medical certificate, and twenty-seven remain unvaccinated, because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination, and made statutory declarations to that effect.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The cause of the fatal case of encephalitis lethargica was not ascertained. No epidemic occurred during the year and none of the schools was closed.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Nursing in the Home.—The Market Drayton branch of the Shropshire Nursing Federation supply one Nurse for the district. Her services are available for Midwifery and general nursing. Her earnings are supplemented by private subscriptions. Inspection of the housing conditions of Tuberculosis patients notified is done by a County Health Visitor under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health. The Health Visitor also examines school children and when necessary refers them to their doctor for treatment.

Midwives.—No midwives are employed direct by the Urban Council. The number of midwives practising in the district varies, but five or six are at present available.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council: A Fever Hospital for the isolation of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever situate at Little Drayton is available for and supported by the Market Drayton Urban and Drayton and Blore Heath Rural Districts. The hospital contains four wards with sixteen beds.

An ambulance is provided for infectious cases.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological examinations are made at Birmingham University by arrangement with the County Council. The provision of diphtheria antitoxin and its administration has been paid for in the District since the year 1899.

Part III. of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 was adopted 3rd March, 1919.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION IN 1921.

Number of houses which have been inspected, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic sanitary survey 577

Number of legal notices sent 13

Number of informal notices sent 95

Number of such notices complied with 99

Number of letters written 246

Particulars of sanitary matters referred to in the above notices:—

(a) Houses to be disinfected after infectious disease 17

(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply 6

(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains amended 38

(d) New closets to be provided or old ones amended 35

(e) Houses damp, or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in bad sanitary condition 24

(f) Offensive accumulations 22

(g) Houses overcrowded 4

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) 10

Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis 7

Privies converted into water closets 15

(Numbers at end of year.—999 water closets, 266 privies).

(122 have been converted since the constitution of the District in 1914).

Lodging-houses, bakehouses and slaughterhouses (7) are regularly inspected, cleansed and disinfected. No underground bakehouses or sleeping places exist in the district.

ACTION UNDER DAIRIES, COW- SHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

Number of cowkeepers and milk- sellers on register	15
Number of dairies and cowsheds ...	10
Number of milksellers only	5
Number of inspections	30
Defects found in cowsheds:—	
(a) Ventilation	1
(b) Lighting	1
(c) Cleanliness	4
Number of notices, verbal and written	6
Number of these notices complied with	6

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary
Inspector, and four men.

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during
the year:—

- (a) Total 17.
- (b) As part of Council scheme, 16.
- 1. Unfit dwelling-houses:—
 - Inspection—(1) Total number of
dwelling-houses inspected for
housing defects (under Public
Health or Housing Acts) 204
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses
which were inspected and re-
corded under the Housing (In-
spection of District) Regula-
tions, 1910 43
 - (3) Number found to be unfit for
human habitation nil
 - (4) Number (exclusive of those
referred to under the preced-
ing sub-heading) found not to
be in all respects reasonably
fit for human habitation 95

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers 95

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 13

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by
 (a) Owners 13
 (b) Local Authority in default of owners nil

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909. (Closing orders and demolition orders) nil

